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Bangalore Mirror ON SUNDAY

TEMP Max 26 | Min 20 | Humidity 74% Mostly Cloudy Sensex 82,365 | Nifty 25,235 | Gold 71,651 | Silver 83,300 | Dollar 83.89 | Euro 92.67 | GBP 110.26

JUST JAMMING

DGP demands explanation from Central Jail authorities about how in the presence of mobile network signal jammers, Darshan was able to make video call

PAGE 3

NO END IN SIGHT

B'luru's second-longest flyover that is to come up at Ejipura is facing one delay after the other; now BBMP thinking of cancelling contract due to slow progress

PAGE 5

Despite assuring consultation, BBMP charged ahead with its plantation project without any talks with locals. Now at one lake in city, saplings are planted on bund raising concern about damage to structure when roots develop

GET TO ROOT OF THE MATTER

Other issues: Exotic species chosen, existing saplings not cared for

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Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's (BBMP) annual tree plantation programme is nearly halfway through. BBMP's Forest Department has already planted nearly 7,000 saplings at various lakes spread across Yelahanka, Mahadevapura, Bommanahalli, RR Nagar, and Dasarahalli zones.

However, members of lake groups in the city say the saplings are being planted on lake bunds, raising concerns about damage that could be caused to these structures by extensive root systems. Moreover, the programme has been taken forward without consulting locals.

Shobha Bhat, a resident of Nagarbhavi, who along with a handful of citizens manages Srigandhakaval Lake, says BBMP has planted over a 100 saplings inside the lake boundary. All the saplings are of exotic species and while some are planted on a recently constructed lake bund, others are crammed in the space.

Nearly 100 saplings that were

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 »

"After we objected, BBMP's Lake and Forest Department officials held a meeting with us. We were told they would soon approach us and consult on various aspects of the plantation. However, it never happened— Shobha Bhat, Nagarbhavi resident

Installation art that nobody asked for

BWSSB leaves behind pipe on footpath after its work is over, BBMP develops path around without removing it

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An underground drainage pipe left on the footpath is a classic example of how contractors get bills passed by Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) without any inspection of the quality of the developmental works in the city. It is not clear which agency was selected to give project consultancy services for the developmental works taken by the BBMP Major Roads Department in Yelahanka Zone.

It is alleged that a Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) contractor dumped one of the UGD pipes on the footpath while laying pipes on the Railway Parallel Road that connects Judicial Layout with Allalasandra flyover. The BWSSB contractor forgotten to take it away after completing the job.

Meanwhile, BBMP Major Roads Department took up asphalting of the road and developing the footpaths. Perhaps, because of lack of manpower to remove the UGD pipe from the footpath or sheer negligence on the part of the contractor, workers, and the BBMP Major Roads Department engineer, the development of the footpath was completed without the UGD pipe dumped on the footpath ever getting removed.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Cultural spectacle

Watch "Droupathi Heltavle," a play depicting a turn of important events in Droupathi`s life characterised by herself. Droupathi is an unimaginable character and a cold ablaze concealed in the inner faculty of every other female on the planet without exception. Dropathi is Bharatha Katha's disgust, anger, courage, and fear. Dropathi says, "I play with the fire of my own truth; I will burn for the things I love." Dropathi heltavle is a classic blend of folklore and Kumaravyasa Bharatha. **Where: Rangashankara, JP Nagar; When: September 1, 3.30pm and 7.30 pm**

02 Sculpting Ganesha

Celebrate an eco-friendly Ganesh Chaturthi with Maya's Pottery by sculpting your very own Ganesha using clay in an 'Eco-friendly Ganesha Workshop'. The piece will be around 20 centimetres. Join in and unleash your inner artist as you dive into a world of ceramics and spread the festive spirits. **Where: Maya's Pottery, Jeevan Bima Nagar; When: September 1, 10 am**

03 Bharatanatyam presentation

Watch a unique and thematic exploration of the nine ways to connect with the divine through the 'Navavidha Bhakthi' presentation. It delves into the nine forms of devotion described in ancient scriptures, offering a deeply reflective and artistic portrayal of each path to divine connection. Conceived and directed by Acharya Dr Raksha Karthik, the presentation will feature performances by artist Smriti Sridhar and Acharya Raksha Karthik herself. **Where: The Medai, 5th Block, Koramangala; When: September 1, 6 pm**

Bird's-eye view

Drone visual of the Madurai–Bengaluru Vande Bharat Express train which was inaugurated on Saturday

Mavallipura landfill may soon host 'Sports City'

Bengaluru's ambitious Sports City project resumed after 11 years; government gives green light for preparation, implementation of detailed action plan for construction

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The groundbreaking ceremony for the Sports City in Bengaluru has finally been scheduled, 11 years after it was first planned. A location has been identified for this purpose in Mavallipura, Yelahanka Taluk. The concept of Sports City is gaining recognition in urban areas around the world. In this context, the state government had decided to build a well-equipped Sports City to benefit athletes and sports enthusiasts in Silicon City, which has a population exceeding one crore. A plot of land in Survey Number 8 of Mavallipura village has been identified for constructing the Sports City, which will offer facilities for all sports under one roof.

In 2013, a proposal to build a Sports City within an 80-km radius of Bengaluru limits was submitted to the then Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs Abhay Chandra Jain, led by K Govindaraju, president of the Karnataka Olympic Association. The proposed locations included Chikkaballapur, Mysuru Road, and near Kolar. Eleven years later, the process of identifying the site and implementing the plan for the Sports City has begun. After extensive discussions, it was announced in the 2024-25 budget that an international-level Sports City would be constructed on 70 acres of land in North Bengaluru through public-private partnerships. However, the decision has now been made to construct it on the land allocated at the landfill in Mavallipura, Yelahanka Taluk. The government has already given conceptual approval for preparing and implementing a detailed action plan for the construction of the Sports City.

File photo of Malvallipuara landfill

> **"Revival of Sports City project is a major development. I am pleased that construction process has gained momentum again**
> – K Govindaraju, President of Karnataka Olympic Association

"I am pleased that the process for constructing the Sports City has gained momentum again. The proposal for the Sports City was made to the previous government in 2013, and I have been continuously following up on it. The revival of this project is a significant development," said Govindaraju.

Land transfer & funding

Sources said that till date, no funding has been released for the construction of the Sports City. The Revenue Department has been requested to transfer the identified land to the Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports (DYE&S). After the land transfer, a detailed project report (DPR) will be prepared. The DYE&S sources have indicated that the project will proceed based on the availability of funds.

Facilities planned at Sports City

The Sports City will be providing facilities for both indoor and outdoor sports. It will include courts, tracks, equipment, training facilities, sports and physical education, a sports academy, sports tourism, sports culture, and technology. It will also be offering opportunities to gain knowledge related to all aspects of sports.

Q: Despite jammers, how did Darshan make call?

DGP demands explanation for lapses in mobile signal control at Bangalore Central Jail, after state government issues notice

Despite 3 HCBS towers meant to block signals, video call was made from jail. DGP demands report by September 4

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Following a notice from the state government seeking an explanation for the lapses, the Director General of Police (DGP) for the Department of Prisons and Correctional Services, Malini Krishnamurthy, issued a reminder to the Chief Superintendent of Bangalore Central Jail. The reminder calls for an explanation regarding the presence of mobile network signals inside the prison, despite the installation of high-tech signal jammers.

This action comes in the wake of a video call involving actor Darshan from within the jail, which aired on August 25 and raised concerns about the effectiveness of the signal-jamming measures. The DGP's letter highlighted that, despite the presence of three Harmonic Call Blocking System (HCBS) towers designed to prevent any mobile signals, the video call was able to be made.

In response, the department has instructed telecom providers Airtel, BSNL, Jio, and the Department of Telecommunications (DOT) to explain how mobile signals were still accessible within the prison. The Chief Superintendent has been directed to submit a detailed report by September 4, 2024, explaining these lapses.

Signal jammers affect residents nearby

Residents living around the Central Prison had raised serious concerns about the impact of signal jammers meant to block mobile usage inside the jail. Ironically, while the high-tech jammers are supposed to prevent inmates from using mobile phones, they seem to be affecting law-abiding citizens more.

In response, representatives from Bluewaters Apartments and other affected communities met with DGP Malini Krishnamurthy to discuss the problem. The DGP, aware of their concerns, arranged a follow-up meeting with the General Manager of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) on 20 June and invited two local representatives to participate. Despite prison officials' assurances to address the issue and repeated submissions of the memorandum, no action has been taken so far.

DCP supervising investigation

South East Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Sara Fathima will oversee the investigation into actor Darshan's VIP treatment in prison and is awaiting detailed information from the concerned police sources.

Darshan's 2003 film re-released

Darshan's 2003 hit film 'Kariya' was re-released in theatres on Friday, drawing packed crowds as fans enthusiastically celebrated its return. However, some fans were detained by the police for causing a disturbance in the city.

Court dismisses Pavitra Gowda's bail plea

The court on Satturday dismissed the bail plea of Pavitra Gowda, the primary accused (A1) in the Renukaswamy murder case. Pavitra Gowda, along with co-accused Anukumar (A7), had both sought bail in connection with the case.

Mandatory automated testing for vehicle fitness certificates

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From Sept 10, all private service vehicles have to get Vehicle Location Tracking Systems installed

Starting next month, all vehicles requiring fitness certificate (FC) renewal will need to undergo inspections at the automated driving test track. These stations are being established at 13 locations, including Devanahalli, Tumakuru, Kolar, Shivamogga, Davangere, Belagavi, and others. Additionally, Automated Test Stations will be set up in 19 more locations, such as Bengaluru (East, West, South and Central), Chikkaballapur, Ramanagara, Mandya, and others. Transport Minister N Ramalinga Reddy said, "The department is investing heavily in the construction of automated driving test tracks across various regions. Tracks are being built in Devanahalli, Kolar, Hospet, Gadag, Ballari, Vijayapura, Bidar, Yadgir, and Davangere at a cost of 80 crore. Additionally, similar projects are underway in Tumakuru, Yelahanka, Sirsi, Sakleshpur, KGF, Chintamani, Sagara, Gokak, Ranebennur, Dandeli, Bhalki, and Bailhongal, with a budget of ₹72.95 crore. In the 2024-25 fiscal year, six more locations will see the construction of driving tracks, totaling ₹36 crore."

Vehicle Location Tracking System implementation

Reddy said that starting September 10, all Private Service Vehicles (PSVs) must install VLTS. Regional transport officers have been instructed to ensure compliance with this mandate. "These initiatives represent a transformative shift in the state's transport sector, aiming to improve safety, enforcement, and operational efficiency", he said.

Reddy has written to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah requesting the transfer of 25 acres of land, currently under the Commercial Taxes Department's possession near the Attibele check-post to D Devaraj Urs Truck Terminal. The check-post was established at Attibele for inspecting goods transported by commercial and cargo vehicles between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, and for collecting commercial taxes. The Commercial Taxes Department had set up an office on the 25-acre site near the check-post, which also served as a truck parking area. The minister has requested that the 25 acres of land under the Commercial Taxes Department be leased to the terminal at a rate of ₹1. "The transfer of this land to the terminal would likely generate more revenue for the government due to the development of surrounding areas. It would also help in curbing illegal activities occurring on the land", Reddy added.

IN BRIEF

Courier agent stabbed over trivial dispute

In a shocking incident, a courier boy was brutally attacked and stabbed in the neck in broad daylight in Ashok Nagar. The incident occurred when the courier boy, identified as Muhammad Shafigayal, was assaulted for a trivial reason.

The attack unfolded after Shafigayal, who was delivering a package, asked the customer for a landmark near the delivery location. Angered by Shafigayal's request and his failure to reach the exact location initially provided, the accused began beating him. The situation escalated quickly, and the accused stabbed Shafigayal in the neck with a knife.

The violent encounter was recorded by a nearby CCTV camera. Following the attack, Shafigayal was rushed to a private hospital, where he is currently receiving treatment for his injuries.

Ashok Nagar Police were promptly alerted and visited the crime scene to investigate. A case of fatal assault has been registered, and efforts are underway to locate and apprehend the accused.

Hizb-ut-Tahrir key accused arrested

The National Investigation Agency made a significant breakthrough on Friday by arresting a key suspect in the Tamil Nadu Hizb-ut-Tahrir case, which involves attempts to radicalise youth and establish an Islamic caliphate in India.

The accused, identified as Aziz Ahamed was apprehended at Bengaluru International Airport while attempting to flee the country.

The NIA had registered the case against six individuals who were reportedly influenced by the extremist and radical ideologies of Hizb-ut-Tahrir, an international pan-Islamist organisation dedicated to establishing an Islamic caliphate.

According to NIA investigations, the accused had been involved in conducting secret Bayans, where many attendees, particularly vulnerable youth, were indoctrinated with the radical teachings of Hizb-ut-Tahrir. The organisation is known to seek military support from entities hostile to India to achieve its objectives. Aziz Ahamed was as one of the main figures orchestrating these covert sessions.

Pain points at ORR listed out

Association of companies in key area points to issues such as worn-out roads, waterlogging, debris-laden footpaths, and delayed drain clearance

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Footpath and service road upgrades, along with micro-surfacing of eight flyovers, are overdue along with the ORR, with several works still pending

The Outer Ring Road Companies Association (ORRCA) has identified critical issues in the city that require immediate attention from authorities. These concerns include several overdue infrastructural upgrades and maintenance tasks.

"Firstly, there is an urgent need for the upgradation of 22 arterial roads. Key areas requiring immediate focus include the road connecting Panathur Road from Kadubeesanahalli and the development of a traffic management plan to prevent congestion on the arterial road linking Rainbow Bridge to the ORR main carriageway. Additionally, the BBMP is yet to provide a comprehensive work plan for all roads. The issue of overdue pothole repairs is widespread, affecting several service roads. These include the LHS of HSR, Iblur, Bellandur, and KB Halli service roads, as well as the RHS of Marathahalli, KB Halli, and Mahadevapura service roads. The flyovers at HSR and Agara (LHS) and Iblur and Bellandur (RHS) also need attention, particularly the KB Halli underpass," according to the list.

Waterlogging issue

ORRCA has also highlighted waterlogging is another pressing issue, with problem areas identified on the HSR service road, Bellandur Lake road, Marathahalli service road and underpass, and near the Panathur railway bridge, where ongoing drain work near the bridge adds to the challenge. The Mahadevapura Flyover Service Road also experiences significant waterlogging.

"Footpath and service road upgrades are overdue along the ORR, with both LHS and RHS requiring attention. The BWSSB's schedule of works for these areas is still awaited. Micro-surfacing of eight flyovers is also behind schedule, with only one completed, four currently in progress, and three yet to be initiated. The targeted completion date for these projects is July 31, 2024. Pending road restoration and asphalting tasks include ongoing BWSSB pipeline work at Bellandur Lake and near the Embassy Back Gate, Gail Gas Pipeline work on Mahadevapura Service Road (LHS), and BMRCL cable work up to DB Halli. Stormwater drain clearance is overdue across the entire ORR stretch, with specific action required for the drain behind Marathahalli police station," the report said.

> **"Footpath and service road upgrades are overdue along the ORR. BWSSB's schedule works for these areas is awaited**
> – Report

ORRCA also stated that BMRCL's road cleaning efforts are progressing slowly. "The central median clearance remains incomplete in several areas, including HSR Nandas Hotel, Iblur, Ecospace, KB Halli near the police station, Marathahalli near Kalamandir, and Mahadevapura near More. While footpath cleaning has been completed from Iblur to DB Halli on both LHS and RHS, the section from DB Halli to KB Halli is still pending. Similarly, debris clearance is still required from ORR to Novotel hotel service road and under the metro station. Lastly, a BBMP notification has been received regarding the planned traffic diversion to the Bellandur village road, with white-topping work scheduled on Bellandur Lake Road towards Sakra Hospital. ORRCA calls for immediate action from the respective authorities (BBMP, BWSSB, BMRCL), urging the assignment of a dedicated and accountable team to address these issues on the Outer Ring Road without further delay," the report stated.

Jayamahal Road: Once vital link is now hazardous mess

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Jayamahal Stretch plagued by exposed electrical wiring and broken footpath

Jayamahal Road, a vital stretch connecting Bengaluru's bustling Central Business District to North Bengaluru's areas like Sadashivnagar, Sanjaynagar, Hebbal, Yelahanka, and Jakkur, has fallen into a state of severe disrepair. Despite its significance as a major link to the Airport Road, the road is plagued by poor design, substandard maintenance, and a series of hazards that compromise the safety of both pedestrians and motorists.

For over a year, residents and daily commuters have been navigating a road that seems to have been neglected by civic authorities. "Jayamahal Road should be a model road for Bengaluru. Yet, the reality is far from this vision. The road is marred by broken footpaths, uncollected debris, and streetlights that have been haphazardly installed, with electrical wiring exposed and posing a risk to passers-by," said Vinod Jacob, from Namma Bengaluru Foundation.

The absence of proper water inlets on shoulder drains exacerbates the problem. During rainfall, the road frequently floods, creating a hazardous environment for all who use it. This situation is especially troubling given the substantial financial investment in the road's construction and supposed improvements. "Despite crores being spent on this project, the road remains unfinished and poorly equipped to handle even moderate rain," noted Vinod Jacob.

For hundreds of daily walkers who use the Jayamahal stretch, the situation is a source of constant frustration and concern. "I've been walking this stretch for years, and it used to be a pleasant experience. But now, it's a nightmare. There's debris everywhere, broken footpaths, and the encroachments are so bad that we're forced to walk on the road, risking our safety." shared one long-time resident.

These walkers, many of whom have been traversing this route for years, recall a time when Jayamahal Road was known for its pleasant, tree-lined sidewalks and well-maintained paths. The current state of disrepair is a stark contrast to those days. The road's footpaths, once wide and inviting, are now broken and encroached upon by shops, leaving pedestrians with little choice but to share the road with vehicles.

The residents complained that the civic authorities have left the stretch neglected in a bad shape.

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Problems in your area?
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Walkway obstruction

Mahadevapura

The bus shelter on Magnificia Internal Road, Pai Layout, Mahadevapura, faces a significant issue. Due to the lack of a roof, passengers are often forced to sit in the aisle, obstructing the walkway.

Spelling error

Vasanth Nagar

The name "Hare Krishna Road" in Ward 93, Vasanth Nagar, is misspelt as "HARI" on the board.

Temporary fix

Vasanth Nagar

On Dr MH Ambareesh Road, Race Course Road, Ward 93, Vasanth Nagar, BWSSB has made a temporary repair by placing stones around a manhole.

Sky-high hopes, no clear path for Ejipura Flyover

Delays, ongoing disputes bring possible tender cancellation at city's second-longest flyover

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The construction of Bengaluru's second-longest flyover continues to face significant delays, with no clear resolution in sight. The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is now considering cancelling the contract due to the slow progress made by the company responsible for completing the project. The ongoing dispute between BBMP engineers and the new contractor over rental payments has further delayed its progress.

During a city inspection on May 22, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah firmly instructed officials to either speed up the work or replace the contractors. Following his orders, BBMP engineers and the contractor resumed work. However, soon after, tensions over the "casting yard" escalated, resulting in mutual blame.

The previous contractor had constructed elements in the casting yard, which the new contractor was permitted to use. The problem arose when the previous contractor failed to pay Rs 1.92 crore in rent for the casting yard, with the new contractor arguing that BBMP should cover this amount. Meanwhile, BBMP officials insisted that the new contractor is responsible for paying the outstanding rent. Both sides have continued to exchange letters in an ongoing disagreement. "If the contractors had maintained a steady pace from the start, 50 per cent of the work should have been done by now. Unfortunately, only 10 per cent has been completed so far. The initial payment was delayed slightly, and another bill they submitted is still being processed," stated a BBMP central project division engineer.

File photo of under-construction Ejipura Flyover

> **If the work does not proceed at required pace, steps will be taken to cancel assigned contract**
>
> –Tushar Giri Nath, BBMP Chief Commissioner

Background

The Ejipura Flyover project, which began in 2017, was initially scheduled for completion by November 4, 2019. The total cost of the project is Rs 1,761 crore, significantly higher than the initial estimate of Rs 203.20 crore. Simplex Infrastructure, which was initially awarded the tender, received multiple extensions but failed to complete the work on time. Despite being granted a 25-month extension, only 42.80 per cent of the physical progress was achieved. Due to these delays, the incomplete work was re-tendered, and the completion contract was then awarded to BSCPL Infrastructure with a work order issued on November 15, 2023, mandating a 15-month deadline. However, despite 10 months passing, only 5–6 per cent of the work has been completed. To date, only 67 out of 81 pillars have been constructed. Multiple warnings have been issued to the contractor, but progress remains stagnant, prompting BBMP to consider cancelling the contract. A report on this situation is being prepared for submission to the chief commissioner, as confirmed by senior project division officials.

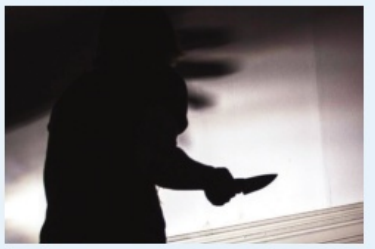
In addition to the stalled construction, the contractor has also neglected road maintenance duties. The road surrounding the construction site has deteriorated, with numerous potholes exacerbated by rain and pedestrian paths damaged. Despite several directives from BBMP to address these issues, the contractor has failed to take action, leading to public complaints. Reacting to this, BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath said, "The completion of the Ejipura Flyover has been discussed in a meeting chaired by the CM and Deputy CM, where instructions were given to the contractors to expedite the work. If the work does not proceed at the required pace, steps will be taken to cancel the assigned contract."

"Even after seven years, the construction of the flyover remains incomplete. The construction along with the pedestrian path, drain, road, and cycle path, is ongoing. The process of property acquisition is also in progress. St John's Hospital has agreed to relinquish 41,000 square feet of land, and the defence department has agreed to release 497 sq m of land. Additionally, negotiations are underway with the Central Government to acquire the necessary land for the project," added an official.

1,205-page charge sheet filed in PG murder case

Bengaluru Police on Saturday submitted a 1,205-page charge sheet to the court in connection with the Koramangala paying guest (PG) murder case. Deputy Commissioner of Police (South East) Saarah Fathima said that the chargesheet has been filed in the Kriti Kumari murder case against the accused 23-year-old Abhishekh Ghosi, a native of Begum Ganj from Madhya Pradesh.

The charge sheet, including testimonies from 85 witnesses, outlines the details of the crime. The First Information Report (FIR) in the case was registered on July 24. The accused was arrested on July 26 from Madhya Pradesh and has been charged under Section 103 (1) of the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS).



Kriti Kumari was stabbed to death by the accused in her PG hostel on the night of July 23

The deceased Kriti Kumari, a native of Bihar, was working at a private company in the city. The preliminary probe has revealed that Ghosi was in a relationship with Kumari's friend and colleague. Abhishek's girlfriend hails from Maharashtra. He used to visit the PG hostel to meet his girlfriend. The relationship soured between them, and the victim's friend avoided him and shifted to a new PG with her help, and both stopped taking his calls. Enraged by this, Ghosi came to the PG where the victim was staying and committed the crime. The horrifying CCTV footage of this brutal murder emerged later and raised concerns in the IT city about the safety of lakhs of women.

–Agencies

A good samaritan's steering towards humanity

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Meet Harish, a 27-year-old private ambulance driver who spent years transforming his struggles into a mission of compassion. With humble bringing and beginnings, his selfless dedication to transporting unclaimed bodies and ensuring their dignified final rites, free of charge, stands as a testament to his remarkable journey.

Harish was recently honoured by Nelamangala Police for humanitarian service. Speaking to BM, Inspector Shashidhar said, "I have been seeing him work dedicatedly since my posting here, and I never knew his name. We used to refer to him as an ambulance driver, and he would be there any moment if we called him. His work and dedication have earned him a small honour from our side."

Harish's life has been marked by loss and struggle, but also by an undefeatable commitment to helping others. Today he stands as a beacon of hope for those in need. Started in 2022, his ambulance service called 'Om Shakti Ambulance Service' has served more than 200 people, including 70 baby shifts. Over the years, Harish has transported nearly 80 decomposed bodies and around 200 unknown bodies, often performing the final rites for unclaimed corpses. During the Covid-19 pandemic, his experience transporting oxygen cylinders brought back painful memories of his father's death when he was just 2, a time when he didn't fully understand the gravity of what was happening. "I realise now that it was for an oxygen cylinder they were running around for during my father's hospitalisation," he recalled.

Om Shakti ambulances; (inset) Harish with Inspector Shashidhar

Born in a village near Doddabele, Harish faced hardship from an early age. Residing nearby the Nelamangala Government Hospital, he was often separated from his mother due to her illness. His dream of joining the army seemed like a distant hope, yet it kept him motivated. "I would save every rupee I could, travelling 20 km to Nelamangala to apply for army positions after seeing ads in the newspaper," he recalled while sharing his journey to BM. Although he couldn't achieve that dream, he wanted to serve people, and becoming an ambulance driver seemed like the right way to do it. He struggled to save up and get his driving licence. "My first day on the job as an ambulance driver is unforgettable," he recalled. Narrating a gruesome sight of retrieving a dead body from railway tracks, he said, "I and Hanumanthraju (his colleague) fell sick for a week. Even so, we didn't utter a word to our owner as we didn't want to lose our job."

3,000-plus govt schools in brittle state in K'taka

Belagavi district has highest number of dilapidated schools, crossing 1,000 mark

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The recent heavy rains in the state have severely affected more than 3,500 government school buildings, leaving them in a dangerously dilapidated state. Without immediate restoration, there is a significant risk that these structures could collapse. The situation has become even more alarming following the collapse of a Government Higher Primary School building in Dakshina Kannada district, which resulted in injuries to four students. This incident has heightened concerns about the deteriorating conditions of other schools across the state.

In Karnataka, there are 47,276 government schools with a student population of 5.32 million. Recent rains have caused extensive damage to 3,819 classrooms, as reported by the Revenue Department. Recognising the potential danger, Education Department has directed headmasters to relocate students to safer locations to prevent any further accidents. Belagavi district has been particularly hard hit, with 1,090 school buildings now in poor condition, making it the district with the highest number of dilapidated buildings in the state. Hassan and Haveri districts follow closely, with 591 and 541 damaged school buildings, respectively. In total, 19 districts have schools with classrooms in urgent need of repair.

Every year, the School Education Department compiles a list of schools requiring repairs, with the work being funded by the department's budget. This year, a detailed action plan is still in development, but officials have assured that repairs will commence soon, using the funds available with the district administration. To ensure safety, the department has issued specific guidelines. Classrooms that are in a dilapidated condition should not be used, and students should avoid playing near compound walls. In cases of severe structural damage, evacuation may be necessary. Schools have also been instructed to work with the Urban Administration to prevent water accumulation in buildings and to collaborate with the Gram Panchayat for the repair work.

File photo of a 89-year-old Pavoor Government Primary School, near Mangaluru

> **"Our children deserve safe, clean and well maintained schools, as these are the foundations of their education and future undeniably**
>
> –Uma Maheshwar, education activist

BB Cauvery, Commissioner of the School Education Department, stated, "We are identifying schools across the state that require large-scale repairs and formulating an action plan. Schools have been instructed not to use classrooms that have reached a dilapidated condition. The repairs will be carried out in phases." Reacting to this, Uma Maheshwar, an education activist said, "Maintaining government school buildings is not just about infrastructure, it's about ensuring a safe and conducive learning environment for our children. Regular inspections are crucial to identify early signs of wear and tear. We must establish a dedicated maintenance fund that is accessible to every school, allowing for timely repairs and upkeep. Schools should collaborate with local governments, NGOs, and parents to create a sense of ownership and responsibility towards these buildings. Training staff in basic maintenance practices, such as checking for structural issues, plumbing, and electrical systems, can prevent small problems from becoming major hazards. Lastly, we must advocate for increased government funding specifically earmarked for the ongoing maintenance of school facilities. Our children deserve safe, clean, and well-maintained schools, as these are the foundations of their education and future."

HC adjourns hearing on CM's plea

The Karnataka High Court on Saturday adjourned the hearing on the writ petition filed by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah against Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot's nod to open investigation against the senior Congress leader for his alleged involvement in the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) land scam case to September 2.

A High Court bench, headed by Justice M Nagaprasanna, which heard the matter stated it has to decide whether the investigation nod was needed or not, and continued its interim order for the lower court restricting it to proceed further in the case.

Senior counsel Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for CM Siddaramaiah, had already presented his arguments, seeking to quash the Governor's order. Defending the Governor, Tushar Mehta submitted that the decision was made lawfully and all due process was followed.

Mehta emphasised that since Cabinet ministers are selected by the Chief Minister himself, it is not imperative for the Governor to consider the Cabinet's decision when a complaint is made against the CM. He added that it is unlikely for the Cabinet to take a decision against the CM.

Congress stages 'Raj Bhavan Chalo'

Cong leaders at Vidhana Soudha protesting against Governor

Congress party led by CM Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM DK Shivakumar staged a 'Raj Bhavan Chalo' protest on Saturday, voicing their outrage over the Governor's approval to prosecute the CM in the MUDA case, while questioning his inaction on cases involving others. Legislators, MPs, and Ministers confronted Governor Thaawar Chand Gehlot about the delay in granting prosecution sanctions in pending cases against Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel, HD Kumaraswamy, and former BJP Ministers Shashikala Jolle, Murugesh Nirani, and Janardhana Reddy.

Led by DKS, the Congress leaders assembled at Vidhana Soudha, where they staged a demonstration in front of the Mahatma Gandhi statue, holding placards that read "BJP Stooge Governor" and "Biased Governor." They marched to the Governor's office, raising slogans against him. Upon reaching Raj Bhavan, Shivakumar and other leaders met with the Governor and submitted a memorandum, defending the CM. –IANS

PUBLIC NOTICE

at Petroleum House, 17, Jamshedji Tata Road, Mumbai - 400 020 and having its Regional Office at 1st Floor BSNL CACT, K R Puram, Bengaluru-560016 represented by its Deputy General Manager and Duly Constituted Attorney intends to obtain ownership rights over the property more fully described in the schedule hereunder, to run and operate a petroleum retail outlet, from **Smt. Latha Hanumanthegowda W/o Hanumanthegowda** for the location Situated at Hullal Village, Yeshwanthpura hobli, Bangalore North taluk, Bangalore District, who claim and represent to be the absolute owner having clear and marketable right and title over the schedule property.

Any person/s, financial institutions, firms or predecessor/s-in-title, Govt. authorities/bodies, banks, co-operative societies, having any manner of right, interest or title over the schedule property or any portion thereof, or the boundary or having any kind of objection to the transaction may contact the under signed counsel along with relevant documentary proof within 15 days from this publication, after which it would be construed that there is no objection whatsoever from any one and the said transaction would be completed.

SCHEDULE

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WEST BY	**:Remaining property of the lessor**
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CHANDAN B, ADVOCATE
Nelamangala Date: 20/08/2024

3 elephant carcasses found in 4 days

Garima Prasher
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Wildlife activists have raised concerns after three elephant carcasses have been discovered in Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple Tiger Reserve over the last four days.

While the skeleton of a dead tusker was discovered by a beat forester on Wednesday in the Bylur range, decomposed remains of another elephant was discovered in the Yelandur range on Thursday, followed by another dead elephant in the Bylur range on Friday.

In a letter written to the Karnataka Forest Minister, activists requested a protocol to ensure on-foot forest surveillance by the officials concerned. "Inadequate foot patrolling is the reason that the carcasses are being discovered late. We have requested the Forest Minister to have a protocol so forests are under effective surveillance. Foot patrolling is the most effective way to ensure the conservation of forests and wildlife, which appears to be lacking in Karnataka's forests," said Joseph Hoover, former State Board of Wildlife member and founder of the United Conservation Movement and Charitable Trust.

Belated discoveries expose inadequate protection of wildlife

The skeleton of the tusker that was discovered on Wednesday in Bylur is estimated to be at least six months old. Activists also underline that the decomposed body was found barely 500 metres from the forest guest house.

The second decomposed remains of an elephant are estimated to be at least three months old. Four days after the carcasses of two tuskers were discovered in the Bylur and Yelandur ranges, one more elephant was found dead in Bylur range.

Activists say the belated 'discoveries' expose the inadequate protection of flora and fauna in the tiger reserve. Both the ranges - Bylur and Yelandur - had repeated fire breakouts during the summer, manifesting the lackadaisical approach of the rangers.

Experts say this delay in discovering carcasses, leads to inconclusive outcomes of cause of death. "It is difficult to ascertain the cause of death in a decomposed carcass. Pinpointing an illegal activity becomes next to impossible. A carcass discovery three to four days after the death of the animal also makes detection of harmful chemical compounds in the body. Even the sex of the animal cannot be determined, let alone the cause of death," said a wildlife activist.

THE SUNDAY READ

PIC COURTESY: RAJKUMAR RAJAK

Rhythms of resilience

From Carnatic vocals to clay pot percussion, Sumana Chandrashekar defies norms and finds her true beat in the world of the ghatam

| R Prashanth Vidyasagar
mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

In the heart of South Bengaluru's vibrant neighbourhood, a young girl named Sumana Chandrashekar was growing up in a home filled with music. From the age of seven, she was immersed in the world of Carnatic vocals, learning the traditional art. Music was omnipresent in her life but little did Sumana know that her true calling would reveal itself much later in life, and in a form she had never imagined.

A sudden shift

Sumana spent her early years devoted to her vocal training, performing at concerts, and honing her skills with dedication. But sometime in 2008-09, something shifted. She felt an unexpected pull toward the ghatam, a humble clay pot percussion instrument that wasn't just another tool for making music it was something that resonated with her soul. "I had been singing for years, and I loved it," she says, reflecting on that time. "But the ghatam spoke to me in a way that no other instrument had. It was like discovering a part of myself I didn't know existed."

Her fascination wasn't momentary; it was a deep, almost spiritual connection that refused to fade. Encouraged by her friends and her vocal guru Rupa Sridhar, Sumana decided to take a leap of faith and pursue this newfound calling. But starting over as an adult, and as a woman in a field dominated by men, was no easy task.

Finding the right mentor

The first challenge was finding a teacher. In the traditional world of Carnatic percussion, adult learners were rare, and women learners even more so. But Sumana had her sights set on one person Sukanya Ramgopal, a celebrated ghatam player and the first one in the field. Nervous yet determined, Sumana reached out, hoping for guidance. To her delight, Sukanya agreed to mentor her.

"I had admired Sukanya ma'am for years," Sumana says with a smile. "Watching her play was like watching magic. Her skill, her grace, it was everything I aspired to be." Training under Sukanya was demanding, and mastering the ghatam meant developing both rhythm and the physical endurance to play an instrument that required a lot from the hands. "There were days when my hands ached, and I wondered if I'd made a mistake," she recalls, laughing at the memory. "But every time I nailed a rhythm, it felt like a victory."

Breaking barriers in a male-dominated space

For Sumana, the challenge wasn't just about learning a new instrument; it was about breaking into a space traditionally reserved for men. In the world of Carnatic music, percussion often carries the misconception that it's about physical strength, making it seem out of reach for women. "People assume percussion is all about strength," Sumana explains, "but it's really about technique, rhythm, and an emotional connection to the music."

Despite the biases, Sumana's persistence paid off. She began to gain recognition, not just as a vocalist but also as a talented ghatam player. Her performances, rich in emotion and precision, slowly began to shift perceptions within the Carnatic music community.

Sumana spent her early years devoted to her vocal training. But in 2008-09, something shifted. She felt a pull towards the ghatam

Music as Meditation: The deeper connection

For Sumana, the ghatam is more than an instrument; it's a spiritual journey. "Playing the ghatam is like meditation for me," she says. "It's about looking inward and letting that inner experience reflect in the music." This profound connection to her art has not only guided her through the ups and downs of her musical journey but has also shaped how she sees life.

Interestingly, Sumana's practice of Shaolin martial arts complements her music, bringing a unique perspective to her craft. "Martial arts and music might seem worlds apart, but for me, they're connected. Both require discipline, balance, and a deep focus on the mind and body," she shares.

A trailblazer for future generations

Sumana's story isn't just about her own path, it's about inspiring others, especially women, to take up space in fields where they're underrepresented. She has been part of all-women concerts and worked on innovative projects, like an audio installation that combined the sounds of ghatam playing and making, bridging the worlds of music and art.

Her advice to young women is simple yet powerful: "If you feel a pull towards something, follow it. The path may not be easy, and people might doubt you, but your passion will guide you through." Having said that she also has a request, "Remember that including women in concerts or having them lead music shows shouldn't be limited to Women's Day or the month of March. Talent should be the focus, not gender."

The journey continues

Today, Sumana continues to perform as a full time ghatam player. Her performances are not just displays of skill; they are expressions of her personal and spiritual journey, filled with all the passion and perseverance that have defined her life.

In a musical world where the ghatam is often overlooked, Sumana Chandrashekhar's story is a shining example of what's possible when you dare to follow your heart. Her journey is a testament to the transformative power of music, and a reminder that when you listen to your inner voice, incredible things can happen.

"Remember that including women in concerts or having them lead music shows shouldn't be limited to Women's Day or the month of March. Talent should be the focus, not gender

– Sumana Chandrashekar

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

BALMY COURSE

An auto rickshaw driving through a hilly road in picturesque Ooty.

The picture was clicked by reader **NJ Ravi Chander**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

School uniform verification complete, supply approved

After identifying poor quality uniforms, they were re-inspected by two companies, which gave positive results

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TWEETS @sridharvMirror

The Karnataka Handloom Development Corporation (KHDC) passed the final evaluation for school uniforms, after initially failing, by providing an alternative fabric. After the initial setback, KHDC submitted uniform samples to two different companies for testing, both of which yielded positive results. Despite this, a slight variation in the quality of the supplied uniforms was detected, prompting the Education Department to impose a penalty. The uniform supply process involves two types of testing and inspection methods, which are: If the uniform quality is deemed very poor, it is unsuitable for distribution; and if there is a slight variation, a penalty can be imposed on the supplier. This year, the Education Department purchased uniforms for 43 lakh students from 1st to 10th standard in government and aided schools, with the total cost estimated at Rs 88 crore.

BB Cauvery, Commissioner of the Education Department, said, "Providing quality education to the students is our responsibility, and ensuring quality uniforms is equally important. After identifying the poor quality uniforms, we had them re-inspected by two companies. Since the results were positive, we have directed KHDC to continue with the distribution."

Education Department has approved KHDC school uniforms and instructed them to proceed with supply

Pre-supply testing

The Education Department had issued a tender to KHDC for the supply of 20 lakh metres of school uniforms for the 2024-25 academic year, specifically for seven districts in the Kalyana Karnataka region. Before distribution, a committee was tasked with pre-supply testing to ensure quality. Their report indicated that the shirt material contained an excessive amount of polyester, making it unsuitable for students, which led to a halt in the supply. Following this report, KHDC took corrective actions and supplied alternative uniforms. These new uniforms underwent post-supply testing by the Textile Committee and Central Silk Technological Research Institute, who confirmed that the quality met the required standards and was suitable for distribution. Based on these findings, the Education Department instructed KHDC to proceed with the uniform supply.

DID YOU KNOW?

Cats sleep for 80 percent of their lives. Adult cats sleep for 12 to 16 hours a day on average. More than 80% of the lives of older cats and kittens are spent in sleep. How come they sleep for so long? Various ideas propose that this behaviour could be connected to natural elements including the danger of predators, the necessity for energy conservation in the wild, and the solitary disposition of cats. Additionally, sleep is necessary for the creation of memories, and prolonged sleep is closely associated with the rapid growth of a kitten's brain. Cats need about 7 to 8 weeks to develop adult sleep patterns. Both deep sleep and slow-wave sleep (SWS) are experienced by cats. SWS, or shallow wake-state sleep, often lasts between 15 and 30 minutes. Deep sleep durations are substantially shorter, usually lasting five minutes or less. Seeing variations in their sleep patterns is crucial to diagnosing medical disorders that might need extra care.

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

9591233247

Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

TAPTHECHATTER

where Bengalureans speak their mind

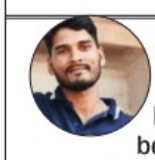
What historical or heritage site in Bengaluru fascinates you the most, and why?

Suresh S, BM Reader
Visiting the Begur Temple was a unique experience for me. The temple's architecture, with its Dravidian-style domes and intricately sculpted pillars, was captivating. I would love to revisit the Begur Temple.

Gabiel Aind, BM Reader
Visiting the ISKCON temple, which is a peaceful place in the middle of the city, was mesmerising. The beautiful architecture, with detailed carvings and grand arches, was stunning. Inside, the atmosphere was calm and serene.

Basava, BM Reader
The Champakadhama Temple in Bannerghatta is a wonderful place. The temple's spiritual atmosphere and the beautiful surroundings left us with lovely memories. The mountains and the environment added to the charm.

Shami Shetty, BM Reader
The wood carvings in the Palace Ground are a testament to the skill and craftsmanship of the artisans, showcasing designs that are intricate. Every corner of the Palace Ground tells a story, reflecting the rich history and culture.



Rajesh Shinde, BM Reader
Thimmarayana temple in Bettadasanapura is a very beautiful temple built on stone. The complete temple is built using stones and the Kalyani in the middle gives a beautiful finish to the temple.

Kavya SK, BM Reader
One historical site that stands out is the Bangalore Palace. Its stunning architecture, characterised by Gothic windows and intricate wood carvings, is a testament to the architectural prowess of the era.

SPEAK TO US

Which recreational activities or hobbies do you think are most popular among Bengaluru residents?

If you want to be featured in this section, mail us your answer to this question, in 25 words, with 'Tap The Chatter' in the subject line. Mail us with your name, occupation & a picture at WhatsApp us on 9591233247 or mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com

HEALTH TIP: Being rich in Vitamin B12 and Vitamin A, Spirulina is a powerhouse of energy

The fibre in dates protects the gut, improves bowel movements and in turn immunity

BangaloreMirror 9
Sunday, September 1, 2024
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All you need to know about...

Rosemary oil for hair growth

Mix Rosemary Oil Into Shampoo
You can also incorporate rosemary essential oil into your shampoo, conditioner, lotion, or cream. Exercise caution and avoid adding excessive amounts. Aim for about five drops per ounce of product. After mixing, use the product as usual. Additionally, you can directly add 2 to 3 drops of rosemary essential oil to any hair product by applying it to your palm before use.

Massage Directly Into The Scalp
After blending approximately five drops of rosemary essential oil with a teaspoon of carrier oil (such as jojoba or coconut oil), gently massage the mixture into your scalp following a bath or shower. You can choose to rinse out the oil afterwards, but for optimal results, allow it to rest on your scalp for at least 5 to 10 minutes before rinsing.

Homemade Shampoo
Numerous online resources provide recipes for homemade shampoo bases. You can customize these recipes by adding essential oils to suit your desired health and beauty preferences.

Pre-shower Treatment
Common ingredients may include a blend of baking soda, coconut oil, essential oils, and other beneficial oils. You can also incorporate the same for a pre-shower treatment.

Possible Side Effects
While moderate use of rosemary oil can yield benefits, be mindful of potential side effects that may arise from excessive usage. Irritation to the skin: Direct contact with rosemary oil can lead to skin irritation, including redness and itching, particularly for those with sensitive skin. Allergy: Some may experience allergic reactions, presenting as rash, hives, or difficulty breathing. Toxicity: If not used in moderation, ingesting large quantities of rosemary oil can be toxic, resulting in symptoms like vomiting, spasms, or kidney damage. —Femina

NUTTY FLAVOUR

Monday is World Coconut Day! Try these new recipes to explore the versatility of this yummy nut

COCONUT PANNA COTTA

Deependra Yadav, Chef-De- Partie, Clarks Exotica Convention Resort and Spa

INGREDIENTS
- Coconut Milk: 100 grams
- Heavy Cream: 50 grams
- Sugar: 15 grams
- Gelatine: 1.5 grams (about 1/2 teaspoon)
- Water: 5 grams (for blooming gelatin)
- Vanilla Extract (optional): a few drops

METHOD
- Bloom the Gelatin: In a small bowl, add 1.5 grams of gelatin to 5 grams of water. Let it sit for 5-10 minutes to bloom.
- Heat the Coconut Milk and Cream: In a small saucepan, combine the coconut milk, heavy cream, and sugar. Heat gently on medium heat, stirring until the sugar is completely dissolved. Do not let it boil.
- Add the Gelatin: Remove the saucepan from the heat and add the bloomed gelatin to the warm mixture.
- Stir until the gelatin completely dissolves.If using vanilla extract, add a few drops at this point.
- Cool and Set: Pour the mixture into a small ramekin or glass and allow it to cool slightly. Then, transfer it to the refrigerator to set for at least 4 hours or until firm.
- Serve: Once set, you can unmould the panna cotta by dipping the mould briefly in warm water and inverting it onto a plate, or serve it directly in the ramekin. Enjoy!

DAAB CHINGRI WITH FRESH DAAB, FRIED CHILLIES AND GOBINDO BHOG RICE CRISP

By, Mehul Khanna, Sous Chef, JW Marriott Hotel Bengaluru

INGREDIENTS
- Shrimps, deshelled and deveined 250gms gm
- Daab (tender coconut) 1no.
- Onion 50gm
- Garlic 2gms
- Green chilli paste 2gms
- Fresh yellow mustard paste 2tsp
- Panch phoron 1/2tsp
- Mustard oil 30ml
- Salt to taste
- Turmeric powder 1/2tsp
- Wheat dough/aluminum foil to seal the coconut
- Green chilli 2pc
- Fresh malai 5gms
- Gobindo bhog rice 5gms

METHOD
- Scrape the coconut flesh properly and make a smooth paste using the coconut water. Cut the bottom of the coconut to make it flat so that it can stand inside an oven or a pressure cooker.
- Cut the top of the coconut in a slightly larger round shape to help with stuffing. Keep the lid safely.
- For the shrimp mixture, heat oil in a pan. Add panch phoron masala and let it crackle.
- Add onion and garlic, and fry until golden. Transfer the cooked spices and oil to a large mixing bowl.
- Add mustard paste, chili paste, turmeric, salt, coconut paste, and coconut water to the bowl.
- Mix well, then add the shrimps to this paste and mix thoroughly. Stuff the shrimp mixture inside the coconut and seal its lid with dough. Preheat the oven to 220°C and cook for about 45 minutes.
- Boil Gobindobhog rice with some spices. Puree it, spread it out on a non-stick tray, and bake it for 10 minutes at 120°C. Let it cool down, then deep fry the rice fritters.
- Garnish with fried chillies, fresh malai, and micro herbs.

Sarma D, Chef- De- Partie, Clarks Exotica Convention Resort and Spa

COCONUT CRUSTED CHICKEN

INGREDIENTS
- Chicken Breast: 150 grams
- Desiccated Coconut: 20 grams
- Breadcrumbs (optional): 10 grams (for extra crunch)
- Egg: 1 small (or 20 grams of egg white for a lighter option)
- Flour: 10 grams
- Salt: to taste (around 1/4 teaspoon)
- Black Pepper: to taste (around 1/8 teaspoon)
- Chili Powder (optional): 1/8 teaspoon
- Garlic chopped (optional): 1/8 teaspoon
- Coconut Oil: 1 tablespoon (for cooking)

METHOD
- Prepare the Chicken: Pat the chicken breast dry and season both sides with salt, pepper, chilli pwd, and garlic chopped.
- Set Up the Breading Station: o In one shallow dish, place the flour.
- In another shallow dish, beat the egg.
- In a third dish, combine the desiccated coconut and breadcrumbs (if using).
- Bread the Chicken: Dredge the chicken breast in the flour, shaking off any excess.
- Dip it into the beaten egg, ensuring it's fully coated.
- Press the chicken into the coconut-breadcrumb mixture, coating it evenly on all sides.
- Cook the Chicken: Heat a non-stick pan over medium heat and add 1 tablespoon of coconut oil . Once the oil is hot, place the chicken in the pan. Cook for about 4-5 minutes on each side, or until the chicken is golden brown and cooked through (internal temperature should reach 74°C or 165°F).
- Serve: Once cooked, remove the chicken from the pan and let it rest for a minute. Serve with a side of salad, dipping sauce, or your choice of sides.

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Consultation could have prevented 'grave errors'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

planted last year by BBMP have not been maintained.

"On Wednesday, BBMP's contractor planted over a 100 saplings of various exotic species such as Tabebuia, mahogany, honge, Kaduna Badami, etc. They had planted these saplings last year also but they were not maintained. Moreover, in June this year, we planted nearly 100 saplings of 21 native tree species. This took up most of the space. However, 100 more have been planted by BBMP without consulting locals," said Bhat.

After BBMP had announced the plantation programme over a month ago, active lake groups and citizens raised concerns about the lack of public consultation and planning by the Palike. In response, BBMP had assured that extensive public consultation sessions with locals and lake groups will soon follow and all feedback and suggestions regarding issues such as damage to bunds, mono plantation, biodiversity, etc. will be taken into account.

"After we objected, BBMP's Lake and Forest Department officials held a meeting with us. We were told they would soon approach us and consult on various aspects of the plantation. However, it never happened," added Bhat.

When BM reached out to the Forest Department, DCF, BLG Swamy said, "The saplings that we are planting are recommended by experts for the urban ecosystem. However, we are getting complaints about the species that we have selected. We have thus called for another tender for planting 18,000 more saplings of species being recommended by the citizens and members of lake groups. We have asked them for the list of species. We are also consulting locals."

Consultation would have helped

According to city-based lake activists, consultation with local groups would have helped BBMP to avoid grave errors that have taken place during plantation at Srigandhakaval Lake.

"With impunity and total arrogance, the BBMP forest and lakes departments have started planting saplings inside the lakes without any consultation or even informing the local citizen lake groups. They have planted tap root trees on the bund and this will surely damage the freshly built bunds. Moreover, Bengaluru's hallmark should be native tree species so the city's biodiversity can be improved," said V Ramprasad, founder, Friends of Lakes.

BBMP's plantation programme is aimed at improving local biodiversity by creating a green belt of 500 metre around all water bodies across the city.

Srigandhakaval Lake

Pipe-shaped dent in BBMP's work

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The residents of Judicial Layout, especially senior citizens, are shocked by the brazen apathy of the BBMP Major Roads Department. They blamed the Department for causing inconvenience instead of making footpaths pedestrian-friendly.

"It is quite shocking to come across the apathy of the BBMP engineer. It is not clear what made the BBMP Major Roads Department engineer, including the BBMP contractor and the BWSSB contractor, to become oblivious of the existence of the UGD pipe.

The BBMP Major Roads Department engineer must visit the spot and remove the UGD pipe and restore the footpath," said Dr B Pandukumar, president, Senior Citizens' Welfare Association.

Coming down heavily on the BBMP Major Roads Department, HM Venkatesh, a resident of Judicial Layout, said it seems the Department is interested in wasting taxpayers' money.

"The development of the footpath was just a way to facilitate the contractor and the BBMP engineer to make money. The BBMP engineer has to at least now get the UGD pipe lying on the footpath removed. The unused UGD pipe has become a laughing stock," said Venkatesh.

BBMP Major Roads Assistant Executive Engineer told BM that he was not aware of the UGD pipe lying on the footpath. "I do not know why it is lying on the footpath.

It could be that the pipe is kept on the footpath to cover the drain or to connect to a culvert. I will look into the matter," the assistant executive engineer said.

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I, Prasanth Visalam Vasudevan R/o Gokulam Apt A-2 205, Kanakapura main road, Doddakallasandra, Bengaluru 560062 have changed my name to Prashanth Vasudevan Visalam Affidavit Dt.20/08/2024 notary Harisha G, Bluru

I, H.N.Manju, S/o Late H.Narasappa, R/at #3, G/F,18th Cross, Cubbonpet, Bangalore - 560002, have changed my name from H.N. Manju to Manjunath.H.N vide affidavit dated 03/07/2024 before Notary K.S.Giridhar, Bengaluru.

I, Ajit Kumar R/O No 1302, B wing, House of Hiranandani, Glen Classic, Bhadrappa layout, Blr-94 changed my name from Ramprasad Ahiwar Ajit Kumar to Ajit Kumar for all future purposes.

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Tech has helped para athletes compete for decades. But it can also create unfair advantage

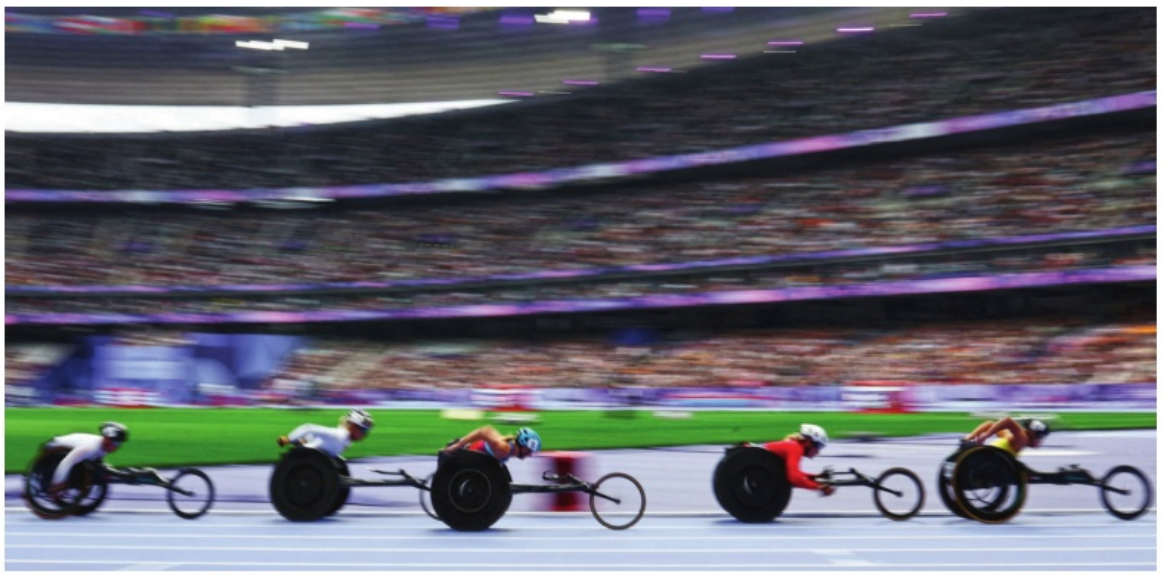
CUTTING EDGE

The Paralympic Games, now a major global event, has a history rooted in rehabilitation.

The first official Paralympic Games was held in Rome in 1960. But its origins trace back to 1948, when neurologist Ludwig Guttmann organised the Stoke Mandeville Games in England for World War II veterans with spinal cord injuries. He believed sport could play a powerful role in rehabilitation, pushing the boundaries of human performance in ways other approaches could not.

Today's Paralympic Games continue this legacy, with technology playing a central role in these achievements.

Technology has enabled athletes with disabilities to reach incredible heights. However, it has also introduced new challenges, particularly in ensuring fairness and equity in competition.



Neuroprosthetics are a notable example of what future will bring. These are devices that interface with the human nervous system to overcome losses in muscular strength and endurance that result from neurological impairments such as spinal cord injury

From simple to sophisticated

In the early days, Paralympic technology was basic by today's standards. Athletes competed in regular wheelchairs and used simple strapping to assist.

As the Paralympic Games grew, competitive success became increasingly prized. As a result, athletes used specialised technology to gain a competitive edge.

Running blades, for example, are carbon fibre prosthetics designed to mimic natural leg movement while enhancing speed and bounciness. These blades have revolutionised track events. They enable athletes with lower-limb amputations to compete at speeds comparable to, and sometimes even faster than, able-bodied athletes. South African sprinter and convicted murderer Oscar Pistorius was the first double amputee with running blades who competed in the London Olympics in 2012 as part of the men's 4x400 relay.

A shifting conversation

By the end of the 2010s, however, the conversation about assistive technology used by athletes had shifted from celebrating integration to debating unfair advantage. In 2019, Blake Leeper, a bilateral amputee sprinter, applied to World Athletics to compete in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics against able-bodied athletes. The international governing body for athletics received independent scientific advice that Leeper's prosthetics gave him a competitive advantage and rejected the application.

Leeper contested this decision in the Court of Arbitration for Sport. But the court ruled against him. Leeper, who is African-American, appealed the decision on the grounds the scientific advice provided to World Athletics was based on racially prejudiced science. But the court rejected his appeal. It ruled the evidence to be fair and unbiased. As technology continues to advance, running blades may soon seem modest compared to what the future brings.

Neuroprosthetics are a notable example. These are devices that interface with the human nervous system to overcome losses in muscular strength and endurance that result from neurological impairments such as spinal cord injury.

The devices can be attached externally or surgically implanted. They can improve functions such as sitting stability and rowing machine performance. It's not hard to imagine some athletes using these devices to gain a significant – but undetectable – advantage over rivals.

The International Paralympic Committee has a sport equipment policy. One of the principles is that sports performance should be determined primarily by human performance, and the effect of technology and equipment should be secondary.

However, upholding this principle requires enforceable rules. As technology advances, this will become increasingly challenging – just as it is in the Olympics.

Levelling field

Technology can also play a crucial role when it comes to classifying athletes.

Each of the 22 Paralympic sports uses a classification system to ensure competition is fair and meaningful. Each athlete is classified according to the type and severity of their impairment. However, classification is not without its challenges. Despite research advances, the best and most valid processes available still rely on expert judgement. And even when classifiers follow strict guidelines, there is an incredibly wide array of test results for classifiers to consider.

Many classification tests also require athletes to give a full effort. This leaves open the possibility an athlete wishing to gain an unfair competitive advantage might deliberately underperform on these tests to exaggerate their impairment severity. They might then be placed in a class of athletes with more severe impairments.

To address these challenges, we are part of a research team that is developing an AI-driven classification system. We will use computer vision of para athletes performing a wide array of movements over time to train the system and develop an app. The app will allow athletes anywhere in the world to video themselves performing sports-related tasks and receive an accurate, objective sports class. This will make classifications more trustworthy and will improve access for athletes in remote areas or developing countries.

Using technology to gain an unfair advantage is as old as sport itself. But technology is also the very tool we must use to ensure fairness and to level the playing field.

(By John Cairney, Emma Beckman & Sean Tweedy, The University of Queensland, The Conversation)

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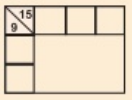
facebook.com/theBangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror

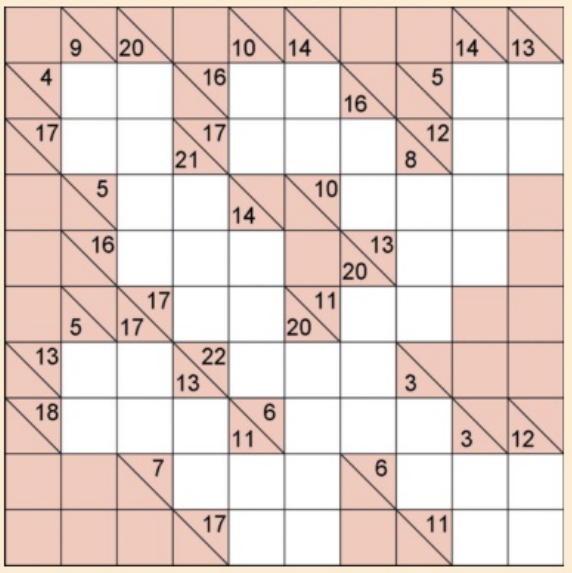
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

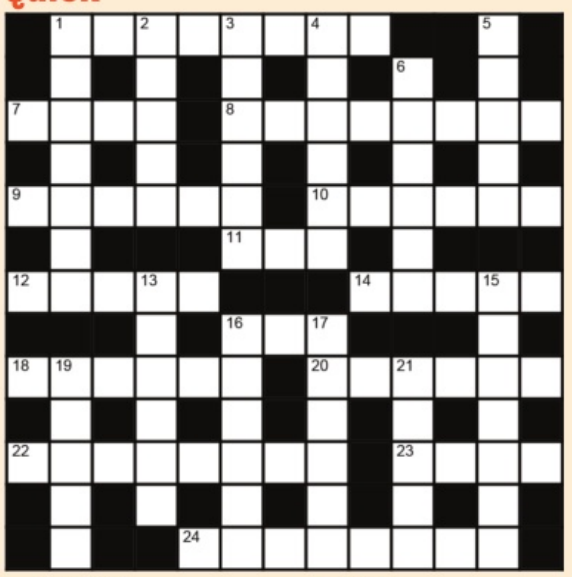


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Exploding; turning bad (5,3)
7 On your own (4)
8 Assisting the memory (8)
9 Breakfast cereal (6)
10 Capturer (6)
11 Make a knot (3)
12 Licit (5)
14 Sparkle brilliantly (5)
16 Part of a circle (3)
18 A stupid person who is rather slow in understanding things (6)
20 Period of trial (6)
22 Music duo ___ Anandji (8)
23 Middle Eastern restaurant on Coles Road (4)
24 Decapitated (8)

DOWN

1 Droplet (7)
2 Graven images (5)
3 Opening chess move (6)
4 Ferocious (6)
5 Capital of Egypt (5)
6 Force; drive (6)
13 At all times (6)
15 Pursued surreptitiously (7)
16 Immediately (2,4)
17 Trigonometric function (6)
19 Likeness (5)
21 Napped (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: G EQUALS R

SGGKG RA QFIQHA JKGS POAH CLQW CGOCL.

Linemaro

If you were my library book, I wouldn't ever return it

Mindchow

Coins make sound, paper money is silent. So when your value increases, keep yourself quiet and humble

Joke of the day

Q: What should be given to an elephant that has diarrhoea?
A: Lots of space

Loop

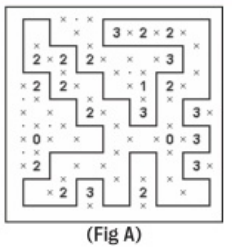
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

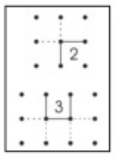
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

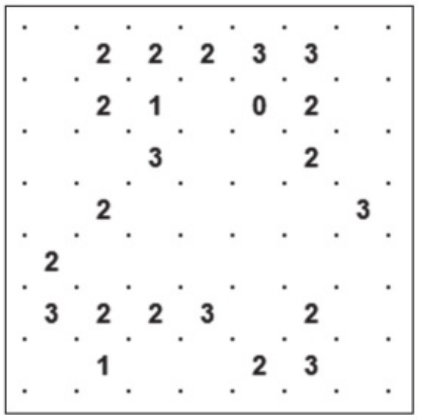
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



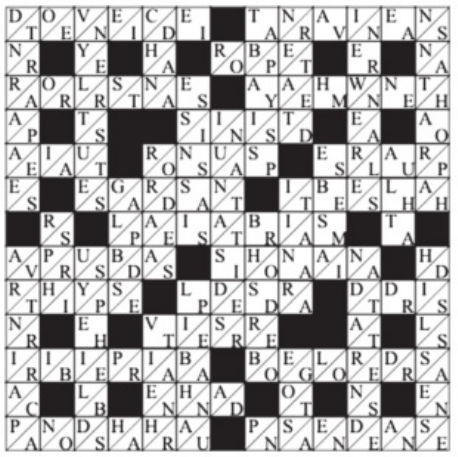
(Fig A)



(Fig B)
Not Allowed



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9				Y

ACROSS

1 Picas; 6 Var an;
7 Pod at; 8 Thous;
9 FY tut

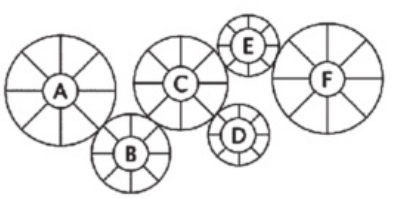
DOWN

1 At vas; 2 Had us;
3 Op for; 4 I punt;
5 TY cat

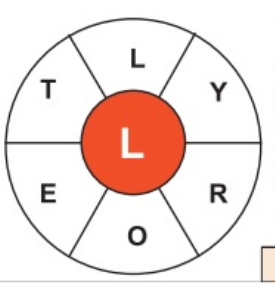
Mensapuzzle

All of the wheels in the figure are touching, so if one moves, the others will move as well. Which wheels would turn in the same direction as wheel E?

All of the wheels in the figure below are touching, so if one moves, the others will move as well. Which wheels would turn in the same direction as wheel E?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

07 Average; **08** Good; **10** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

				4	3	2		
			8			5		
7	8				6			
3		4	9		7		2	
8								7
	5		3		8	6		4
			6				9	1
		1			9			
		2	7	1				

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 22

1 5 9 9

Medium = 6

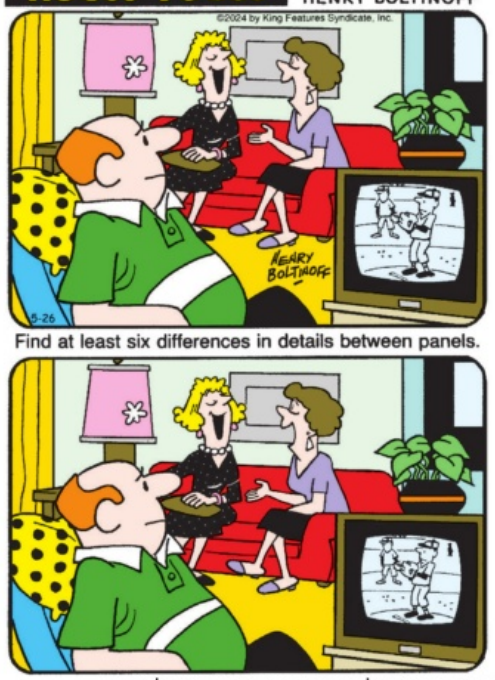
2 4 6 7

Hard = 9

2 3 8 3

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

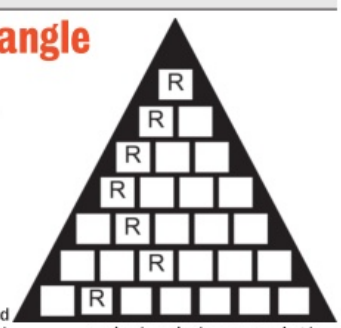
Differences: 1. TV screen is smaller. 2. Stripe on shirt is thinner. 3. Arm is lower. 4. Man's hair is different. 5. Foot is moved. 6. Lampshade is a different shape.

Riddler

What connects Stalag Luft, Marlag and Oflag?

Alpha triangle

1 18th letter
2 Concerning
3 Colour of danger
4 Impolite
5 Unrefined
6 Damned
7 Campaign



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

The BETTER HALF
by GLASBERGEN
Featuring HARRIET & STANLEY PARKER
"I'm auctioning my old diet books on eBay. The highest bid so far is three pizzas."
"Top Ten Reasons Why I Didn't Do The Dishes. Number Ten: My father never hugged me when I was a child ..."
CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK
CHIPS
"One thing I never understood... why does the TV remote have an OFF button?"
"The guy in the store said I can dream in Dolby Digital Surround Sound!"
"I had to dip into our retirement money — they're selling celebrity belly-button lint on eBay!"
BABY BLUES™
BY RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT
Z
GOTCHA!
BWA-HAHAHAHAHA!
I'VE BEEN DREAMING ABOUT THIS MOMENT MY WHOLE LIFE!
I AM FINALLY THE ALPHA-KID AND THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT!
NOBODY TOLD ME SHE'S BEEN WORKING OUT.
I TAKE IT GORDON HAS THE AMULET?
YES, M'LORD GARAKAHN.
YOU HAVE SERVED ME WELL, KARA.
ANYTHING TO PLEASE YOU, SIRE.
WE SHALL SEE...
FLASH GORDON
HOLDING THE AMULET HE FALSELY BELIEVES WILL PROTECT HIM, FLASH IS BROUGHT BEFORE THE MYSTICAL MIRROR TO BE SACRIFICED TO THE CREATURE WITHIN!
NOW WE SHALL SEE HOW WITLESS GORDON TRULY IS!
THERE'S THE GUARD WHO GAVE ME THE AMULET.
I GUESS IT'S NOW OR NEVER!
AS FLASH HOLDS THE AMULET ALOFT, THE CREATURE WITHIN THE MIRROR SEES THE SIGN THAT ITS INSATIABLE HUNGER YEARNS FOR...
...FRESH MEAT!
NO! THE AMULET ISN'T A DEFENSE, IT'S A BEACON!
HEAR ME! AS THE EARTHMAN FALLS, SO SHALL ALL WHO WOULD STAND AGAINST US!
WUOW
ALL HAIL GARAKAHN!
NEXT: THE TENTACLES OF TERROR!

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today you may be busy at work. With the help of your strong network, you may be able to implement your plans successfully. Your wisdom may help you to gain profits in past investments. You may enjoy your romantic moments with your spouse, which will increase harmony in your domestic life. Love birds may enjoy their happy moments.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today you are blessed by the moon, which may make you happy. Last week's crunch is now over. With the help of a blessing, you may get a reciprocation of your hard work. With the help of your subordinates, you may be able to initiate your postponed work. There are some gains in your business which may boost your finances.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today you may feel dull. You may have health issues. You are advised to postpone making investments in the business. It is also advised not to start new ventures. You are likely to face losses in the business. Your gains may likely convert into losses.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today you may be enthusiastic, which may speed up your project. You may be able to make quick decisions which will increase your business. You may likely start an innovation in partnership. Investments in the fixed assets with the business partner are not advised.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you are blessed by a positive moon. You may feel healthy, old health issues may be cured now. The amount, which was stuck somewhere, may likely be recovered now. You may also apply for a loan to buy things related to luxury.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you are blessed by Jupiter, which may give you confidence. You may be able to make important decisions confidently. You are decisive also, so you may grab an opportunity without a second thought. You may likely spend money on family and friends. Love birds may enjoy their happy moments. Job aspirants may likely get a suitable job with the help of friends.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today you may have a dull feeling. You may not enjoy your day. You may be a victim of arrogance. It may affect both your professional and domestic life. You may internally feel a lack of confidence, which may stop you from doing something creative at work.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may feel energetic. You may perform efficiently at work. Your hard work may pay you now. It may boost your confidence. Property-related disputes with the siblings are likely to be resolved now. Your meeting with an influential person may boost your network.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you are blessed by the moon, which makes you happy. You are likely to get a big order with the help of your communication skills. You are polite with the people around you. You may make a few difficult decisions in the business, with the help of your colleagues.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today you are blessed by the moon, hence it's a good day for you. You have great energy, making work enjoyable for you. You may enjoy romantic moments with your spouse, which may improve domestic harmony. You are likely to make new plans and start a new project, your perfection may help you to design the flow chart. Job seekers will find suitable jobs. Love birds are advised to avoid discussions on worthless topics.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today you may not feel better, old health issues may arise, and it may make you upset. You may make wrong decisions due to impatience and hurry. It is advised to think twice before making any decision. It is advised that you should not keep money loose, otherwise you may spend it on buying worthless stuff.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today you are blessed by the moon, which may make you happy. You may likely have good gains in your past investments. You may be able to make quick decisions in terms of work, which may give you good gains shortly.

KIDZONE

Sanjanna V, 6 Years, DRDO Kg School

Ananya Vastare, 10 Years, Insight Academy

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
√(1/25) ÷ √(1/100)
1/5 ÷ 1/10
1/5 × 1/10
10/5 = 2

BULL'S EYE
lore, lyre, rely, role, roll, tell, toll, troll, TROLLEY, yell

STRIKE OUT

QUICK

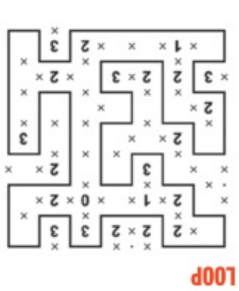
MENSA PUZZLE
Wheels B and D will spin in the same direction as E

SUDOKU

1	6	9	5	4	3	2	7	8
2	4	3	8	7	1	5	6	9
7	8	5	2	9	6	1	4	3
3	1	4	9	6	7	8	2	5
8	2	6	1	5	4	9	3	7
9	5	7	3	2	8	6	1	4
5	7	8	6	3	2	4	9	1
6	3	1	4	8	9	7	5	2
4	9	2	7	1	5	3	8	6

ALPHA TRIANGLE
R, Re, Red, Rude, Crude, Cursed, Crusade.

LOOP



GO FIGURE
Easy
9 + 9 + 5 − 1 = 22
Medium
6 − 7 + 4 x 2 = 6
Hard
8 − 2 − 3 x 3 = 9

KAKURO

FAST FIVE

A	S	P	I	C
V	A	R	N	A
A	D	O	P	T
S	H	O	U	T
T	U	F	T	Y

RIDDLER
They are all types of German POW camps during World War II

QUOTE UNCODE
Error is always more busy than truth.

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Nicole at Venice Film Fest — 'Babygirl', an erotic thriller about a female CEO who begins an affair with a younger, male intern, is also about desire, secrets, marriage, truth, power and consent, star Nicole Kidman said on Friday

Ileana's kitchen woes

Actress Ileana D'Cruz took to social media to share a lighthearted look at her kitchen struggles, revealing a messy stove that left her followers amused.

Taking to Instagram Stories, Ileana, who has 16.1 million followers on the photo-sharing application, dropped a humorous series of posts showcasing her kitchen woes.

In her first video, she proudly declared that she spent 30 minutes scrubbing her stove clean, giving her followers a glimpse into her domestic life.

However, her next video told a different story. Captioned "and then did this", Ileana revealed that her cleaning efforts were short-lived. The video showed her cooking up a storm, leaving her stove in a messy state once again. The final picture she shared showed her stove in disarray, with splatters and spills everywhere.

She captioned it "why?" with a crying emoji, expressing her frustration at the never-ending battle to keep her kitchen clean.

Earlier Ileana had shared a video of herself baking Sourdough bread, an Egyptian starter.

Ileana made her film debut in 2006 with the Telugu romance film 'Devadasu', directed by YVS Chowdary, and starring Ram.

—IANS

Keep the faith

Jacqueliene reveals what keeps her going during the tough times

Jacqueliene Fernandez, a well-known Bollywood actress, has often been in the news due to her alleged connection with conman Sukesh Chandrashekhar. Despite the controversies, she recently shared that her faith in God and regular meditation keep her calm and fearless.

In a recent interview with Harper's Bazaar, Jacqueliene Fernandez was asked how she handles attention unrelated to her work. The Murder 2 actress responded by saying, "positives and negatives are always going to be there." She explained that letting go of her constant need for approval and recognizing that this is the final illusion to overcome has helped her stay free, humble, and calm.

When asked how she maintains her grace amidst the challenges in her life, Jacqueline Fernandez shared that her deep faith in God plays a crucial role. "It's an extremely strong force in my life, and because of that, I never really fear anything," she said. She also mentioned that regular meditation helps her discern between the right and wrong people, allowing her to keep her family and good people close. 'The Race 3' actor shared that she sees her empathy as a strength, not a weakness. She also believes in being respectful to people, animals, and nature.

Last month, Jacqueliene was summoned by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for questioning in the 200 crore money laundering case involving alleged conman Sukesh Chandrashekhar.

On the work front, Jacqueliene Fernandez has an exciting slate of upcoming projects. She will be seen in Fateh, directed by and starring Sonu Sood. She is also part of Ahmed Khan's 'Welcome To The Jungle,' the third installment of the 'Welcome' franchise.

—ETimes

Warm welcome to cinema world

As his niece Anjini Dhawan is all set to make her debut in Hindi cinema with "Binny and Family", her uncle and Bollywood star Varun Dhawan said welcome to the movies.

Varun, who attended the trailer launch, took to Instagram, where he dropped a handful of pictures sharing moments with Anjini from the event. "Welcome to the movies @anjinidhawan," he wrote as the caption. Anjini's debut film "Binny and Family" traces the journey of a London-based teenager named Binny and her conservative grandparents from Bihar, India, who come to live with her. With contrasting lifestyles, she faces dramatic event forces.

The film also stars Rajesh Kumar, Charu Shankar, Pankaj Kapur, Anjini Dhawan and Himani Shivpuri.

At the trailer launch, Varun spoke about adulting and how he derives his strength from his mother. Varun was asked if his thinking has changed after becoming a father. He said: "...I mean we call this term adulting when you are in between both of these situations. I am very lucky." "... What becomes scary or difficult for the child is the parents health..." "I derive all my strength from my mother and I am sure they must be getting theirs from their mother." **—IANS**

Here's motivation to go the extra mile

Director Venshi Ravindra has selected a good subject to make this movie. The movie sends the much-needed message to children as well as parents, especially those from economically weaker families. The movie also highlights how one can achieve the target irrespective of his/her financial condition or social status provided perseverance and dedication.

The movie also makes it clear that martial arts should not be misused to attack or injure people. The director has succeeded in conveying this message aptly.

The movie is about a migrant labourer couple – Karayya (Santosh Savanagere) and Ningavva (Pallavi Rao) – and their daughter Ruthu (Ruthu Sparsha). The couple, with the help of a teacher, gets their daughter admitted into a private school. Being from a rural area, she finds it tough to adjust with her classmates and fails to score good marks.

An unfortunate incident compels the headmistress Radha (Rekha Kudligi) to ask Ruthu not to come to school. She comes to know that Ruthu is good at Taekwondo and allows her to participate in the competition. What happens to Ruthu is what Taekwondo Girl is all about.

TAEKWONDO GIRL

3.0 RATING ★★★☆☆

- **DIRECTOR** Venshi Ravindra
- **ACTORS** Ruthu Sparsha, Sumitha Pravin, Pravin Bhanu, Pallavi Rao, Vifa Ravi, Rekha Kudligi
- **Duration** 110 minutes
- **Certification** U

Ruthu looks cute throughout the movie. Her dialogue delivery and gestures, especially in the scene where her parents quarrel with each other, deserve praise. Sumitha Pravin, who bankrolled the movie, plays the teacher. Rekha Kudligi, who plays the headmistress, is convincing. Pallavi Rao, as a hapless mother, has acted well. A song sequence in the climax provides entertainment but it is not related to the movie.

All in all, the movie is worth a watch for family audiences. **—Y Maheswara Reddy**